

I CLAIM:

- 1 1. A method of receiving data at a client computer and performing an operation on the data received
2 at the client computer, the method comprising:
 - 3 a. receiving a key file at the client computer, the key file comprising a rule identifying the
4 operation to be performed on the data received at the client computer;
 - 5 b. receiving the data at the client computer; and
 - 6 c. performing the operation identified by the rule in the key file on the data received at the client
7 computer.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the data is a bitmap.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the bitmap is a channel bitmap.
- 1 4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said performing the operation identified by the rule in the key file
2 on the data received at the client computer comprises:
 - 3 a. determining a channel that is associated with the channel bitmap;
 - 4 b. storing the data received at the client computer; and
 - 5 c. displaying the channel bitmap when data for the channel associated with the channel bitmap is
6 displayed.
- 1 5. The method of Claim 2, wherein the bitmap is a console bitmap.
- 1 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said performing the operation identified by the rule in the key file
2 on the data received at the client computer comprises:
 - 3 a. determining a console component that is associated with the console bitmap;
 - 4 b. storing the data received at the client computer;
 - 5 c. determining a display position on the console component for the console bitmap; and

6 d. displaying the console bitmap in the determined position when the console component is
7 displayed.

1 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the data is an executable file.

1 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said performing the operation identified by the rule in the key file
2 on the data received at the client computer comprises:

3 a. storing the data received at the client computer; and

4 b. running the executable file.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said running the executable file occurs upon receipt of the
2 executable file.

1 10. The method of Claim 8, wherein said running the executable file occurs upon the next boot-up of
2 the client computer.

1 11. The method of Claim 8, wherein said running the executable file occurs a plurality of times upon
2 subsequent boot-ups of the client computer.

1 12. The method of Claim 8, further comprising displaying a message at the client computer upon
2 receipt of the executable file.

1 13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the data is support data.

1 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said performing the operation identified by the rule in the key file
2 on the data received at the client computer comprises:

3 a. storing the data received at the client computer; and

4 b. displaying the data at an appropriate time and an appropriate location.

1 15. The method of Claim 1, wherein the data is a document file.

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- 1 17. A method of transmitting data to at least one client computer, the method comprising:
- 2 a. providing data to be transmitted to the at least one client computer;
- 3 b. generating a key file comprising a rule identifying an operation to be performed on the data;
- 4 c. transmitting the key file to the at least one client computer; and
- 5 d. transmitting the data to the at least one client computer.
- 1 18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the data is a bitmap.
- 1 19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the bitmap is a channel bitmap.
- 1 20. The method of Claim 18, wherein the bitmap is a console bitmap.
- 1 21. The method of Claim 17, wherein the data is an executable file.
- 1 22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the key file further comprises data specifying that the executable
2 file should be run immediately.
- 1 23. The method of Claim 21, wherein the key file further comprises data specifying that the executable
2 file should be run upon at least one subsequent boot-up of the at least one client computer.
- 1 24. The method of Claim 17, wherein the data is support data.
- 1 25. The method of Claim 17, wherein the data is a document.
- 1 26. The method of Claim 25, wherein the key file further comprises a storage location for the
2 document.